

Proletarian Era

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Why RSS-BJP are so desperate on countrywide NRC

The Union Home Minister and the BJP President has said in Parliament on 20 November last that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) would be prepared for every state in the country. Ahead of his parliament statement, he, while addressing an election meeting in Jharkhand, clearly spelt out the government's intention of throwing out all "infiltrators" from the country before 2024. He even did not hesitate to call the "infiltrators" termites. Also he lied on the floor of parliament by saying that if the Congress had not divided this country on religious lines, there would have been no need to go for NRC and allied exercises. Fact is that the theory of religion-based two nations, was first proposed in the book 'Essentials of Hindutva' by V Savarkar, the erstwhile Hindu Mahasabha leader and an RSS affiliate in 1923. Later it was passed as a resolution of the Mahasabha in 1937. Three

years later, the All-India Muslim League, led by Jinnah, adopted the concept in its Lahore session. On August 15, 1943, Savarkar said in Nagpur, "I have no quarrel with Mr. Jinnah's two-nation theory. We, Hindus, are a nation by ourselves and it is a historical fact that Hindus and Muslims are two nations." Be it as it were, will the NRC undo the wrongs of partition, undo the injustice and ameliorate the sufferings of people in any way?

In that case, why has the Assam NRC been rejected by the BJP government? The former Chief Justice of India under whose supervision the exercise was carried out and who, a few days before he remitted office, did not hesitate to vigorously defend NRC as "a base document for the future". He even dismissed the critics of NRC as "armchair", "careless", "irresponsible", "worsening the situation", "playing with fire",

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SUCI (C) strongly criticizes passage of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 13 December 2019 :

The idea of partition of India on the basis of religion mooted by Hindu Mahasabha, RSS and Muslim League and also the Indian National Congress gained ground with instant support and patronage of the then British Imperialist Rulers of India that resulted in massive exodus of people both from India and Pakistan. As a matter of fact, this resulted in a refugee problem of unprecedented dimension in which atmosphere, in deference to the wishes of the people of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India declared that all refugees would be granted citizenship in India, and it was regarded National Commitment which was to be implemented without any precondition or restrictions. Whereas granting of citizenship to new batch of refugees who have entered in recent times could have been done in accordance with the existing Constitution of India, the Citizenship Act 1955, and along with these other international laws, custom and conventions governing granting of citizenship. The BJP government instead of taking that course brought about a new Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 without developing prior national consensus and it has been passed in both the houses of Parliament based on its brute majority. Clearly, it was completely unwarranted. In fact,

these were brought about with a sinister motive and plan of the RSS-BJP combine to foment communal and parochial sentiments and divide the people to divert their attention from the burning problems of life so that they cannot come out to develop united democratic movements. We strongly deplore this utterly undemocratic and authoritarian move of the BJP government. The fact which cannot be glossed over is that this mischievous move of the BJP government is linked with their sinister design of NRC which has been conceived by BJP government with the same evil and pernicious intention. It is clear like day light that this Citizenship (amendment) 2019 Bill has been envisaged by them as a weapon to push that heinous agenda.

Under the circumstances, we strongly feel that both these heinous moves need to be opposed tooth and nail by developing powerful democratic movement throughout the country.

At the same time we like to emphasize that as per international laws, norms and custom, a person from any country can seek and apply for citizenship of any other country of the world and he or she is entitled to get that citizenship following due process of law of the country concerned without any religious racial and ethnic bias and discrimination. We strongly demand that this be strictly adhered to by the government of India in dealing with such applications.

SUCI(C) expresses grave concern over the Hyderabad rape case and also killing of the accused in an encounter

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist) issued the following statement on 7 December 2019 :

The ghastly rape and murder of a lady doctor in Hyderabad on 27 November 2019 and subsequent killing of the 4 (four) accused by the police have shaken the whole country. This is not an isolated incident in our society.

The ruling bourgeois class and its servitor governments have pushed a large number of youths to all-pervasive degeneration with the wide spread of alcohol, narcotic drugs, pornography, blue films, crime psychology, sex slavish mentality leading to daily horrible incidents of rape, gang rape and murder of women of all ages which cause much pain, agony, resentment among the people.

People note with much anguish that in spite of repeated occurrence of these crimes, governments, at both central and state level, their police, administration and judiciary have failed to provide necessary safety for women and mete out due punishment to the criminals. Even some criminals enjoy protection from the ruling parties.

The criminal negligence of police administration in responding on time when the complaint was launched, has created widespread outrage throughout the country, which ultimately compelled the police to arrest the accused. They are subsequently killed reportedly in an encounter with the police while crime scene was being reconstructed at 3 a.m. early morning of 6 December.

It is noted that while a section of the people has become jubilant in appreciating the police officials for this action, i.e. killing the accused persons, another section has raised serious questions and doubts. These are ; (1) Why the time for reconstruction of crime was selected at night, not in bright day light and that too in absence of neutral persons? (2) How can an unarmed accused snatch revolver from one of the 10 armed police personnel and fire at the policemen and then the four accused attempt to flee away? (3) How no policeman has got bullet injury while 4 accused died due to police firing? (4) Even if firing has been a necessity for self-defence of the police, why the police did not fire aiming below the knees of the accused?

All these questions have led people to conclude that much condemned police officials might have staged a fake encounter

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Why RSS-BJP are so desperate on countrywide NRC

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“thriving through their double speak” and “far removed from the citizenry with “vile intentions”. But he remains mum as to why did the exercise fail in Assam despite claimed to have been overseen by him. Nor did he say why has the government found a scapegoat in the IAS officer deputed as the chief coordinator of Assam NRC project. Then why is the rejection?

Answer is not far to seek. In speech after speech, Union Home Minister and other Sangh Parivar leaders have been insisting that no Hindu will ever be deported from India when their plan to create an NRC is enforced across the country. But despite every attempt including mid-point exclusion of ration card, refugee registration certificate and citizenship certificate issued by competent authority upto 24 March 1971 from being reckoned as valid proofs of citizenship—obviously to inflate the figure of “foreigners” —12 lakhs out of 19 lakh “foreigners” identified by the Assam NRC exercise were found to be Hindus. The question that is conveniently parried by the ruling circle and the apologists of NRC is that if the names not featuring in the published NRC of Assam are of “foreigners” or illegal “infiltrators”, how could most of them exercise their voting rights? Without valid documents of citizenship, can anyone vote? In any case, with names of Hindus surpassing those of

Muslims, there was an uproar from among the BJP in Assam. This has forced the ruling party satraps and the BJP government to reject the Assam NRC document and declare a new process to prepare a countrywide NRC, including Assam. Simply put, it means that the Supreme Court-monitored NRC will remain just a piece of paper and the entire exercise will be redone — this time all over the country.

Clearly, the real motive behind NRC is not to prepare a citizens’ roll which in anyway, by routine, is being done periodically through census. The agenda being buttressed by this is different and it is now being openly discussed, if not despised, by many including renowned democratic-minded intellectuals and eminent persons. It is now clear the ruling BJP and its mentor RSS-Sangh Parivar first began playing dangerous communal politics over India’s laws governing foreigners and citizenship. Now the BJP government has moved swiftly to fragment and eventually even segregate the country’s residents on the basis of religion. Normally, an infiltrator conjures up the image of a man with a gun coming to kill people or with some ulterior motive. But an undocumented migrant is someone who crosses a border in order to make an honest day’s wage or under compulsions of life. Now, we have the home minister calling Bangladeshi migrants ‘termites’ and promising to drive them out of India. If one takes the words of the home

minister at face value, the only people without the requisite documentation who will actually face deportation once an NRC-type exercise is run across India will be the Muslims per se, immaterial if they have illegally migrated from Bangladesh or have been staying in India as *bona fide* citizens. The policy adoptions of the BJP government and the speeches and statements of the RSS-BJP leaders hold proof of their incessant peddling in rabid Hindu communalism and hate campaign against as well as singling out the Muslim minorities. All these, as rightly pointed out by many experts, jurists and informed commentators, violate the fundamental right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution as it discriminates on the basis of religion, singling out certain religious denominations for inclusion while keeping out refugees belonging to the Muslim community.

But the point is what prompts the ruling BJP, its government, its arch Hindu communal mentors and those playing second fiddle to it being so aggressive in pursuing such a notorious policy? Because they have nothing else to offer to people now pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless and escalating capitalist oppression which the ruling dispensation is instrumental in

bringing down. Economy is shattered. So is every aspect of life. In such a situation, despite all kinds of manipulations to elicit a favourable electoral verdict and ensure longer stint in the government, the BJP, so also the ruling monopolists who brought it to power backing it in every possible way, are apprehensive of a people’s upsurge if the continuous onslaught on life and livelihood prolongs further. So to prevent that, only weapon in their hand is to drive a wedge into the unity of the toiling and suffering people on religious line by incessant fomenting of communal passion. If fraternity and solidarity of common people are disrupted, a warped mindset is inculcated and one religious community is made to believe that the other religious community is responsible for all their woes and deprivations, ruling capitalism, the root of all evils, will remain shielded. People could be embroiled in internecine feuds and clashes much to the relief of the capitalist rulers and their boot-licking political managers. The sooner the people understand the hideous underbelly of the NRC scheme and its ancillary legislations, the faster will be the unmasking of their arch enemies perching atop the pillars of power and playing sixes and sevens with their life.

AIUTUC strongly opposes Labour

Code on Industrial Relation

In a statement issued on 29 November 2019, Comrade Sankar Saha, general secretary, SUCI(C) said: “We record our strong opposition regarding the Code which seeks to amalgamate three important time tested labour legislations namely Trade Union Act 1926, Standing Orders Act and Industrial Disputes Act 1946. From the contents of the amalgamated product, it is amply clear that the central government has grossly violated the accepted consensus recommendations of the 46th Session of Indian Labour Conference that laid 3 parameters governing labour law amendments and enactment. These in the main are right to welfare of workers, job creation and industrial peace. A first hand perusal of the Code confirms beyond doubt that the amendments have neither any relation with right

and welfare of workers nor with job creation. On the contrary, the Code empowers the employers with the right of ‘Hire & Fire’ and strike down established principle of permanent nature of employment for permanent nature of work. In our opinion, the proposed Code will open the flood-gate of contractization, casualization, out-sourcing, ‘Fixed Term Employment’ and closure of enterprise for employers’ own interest without prior permission of governments. It also imposes many restrictions on right to organize, formation of Union and right to strike which with the passage of time have assumed the character of fundamental rights.

In this sordid backdrop, we call upon the working class fraternity to build up united sustained struggle to resist this conspiratorial move of BJP led central government.

SUCI(C) condemns criminal negligence on the part of owners and governments for Delhi fire deaths

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(Communist), issued the following statement on 9 December 2019 :

Heart-rending incident of death of so many workers due to accidental fire in a residential building being used as a manufacturing unit in Delhi again reminds us that poor workers are not only mercilessly exploited economically, their safety of life is also cruelly neglected by the industrialists, administration and both the state and central governments. This often claims many innocent lives.

We condemn this criminal negligence. We express our sympathy and condolence to the bereaved families and demand that government must give adequate compensation to them.



UP State AIUTUC conference held on 21 November in Allahabad (Prayagraj) against anti-working class policies of the governments.

Comrade Achintya Singha, member of all India presidium of AIUTUC was the main speaker. Comrades Vijay Pal Singh, Lata Sharma and Dharamdev also addressed.

30 years of demolition of the Berlin Wall

Contain a cruel and cunning treachery against toiling masses of Germany, East or West

Thirty years back from now, profit-hungry MNCs of the monopolists, as well as high-tech based propaganda machinery sponsored by them went exuberant with an event known as "Demolition of the Berlin Wall". It was an event in Germany, but the exuberance spread across the entire capitalist-imperialist world with the target fixed at the then socialist East Germany in particular, and socialism-communism in general. The revellers went all their way to project this as demolition of the barrier between democracy and authoritarianism, between so-called freedom in capitalism and alleged state-coercion in socialism, between apparent prosperity-progress-development of people in capitalism and servitude-stagnation-doom of their counterpart in socialism. The dazzle of monopolist sponsored propaganda and more so, the gloom of treacherous role of the modern revisionists engineering capitalist counter-revolution with the backing of the imperialist-capitalist camp in one socialist country after another, created the haze. These confused and blocked uncritical masses at large from realizing the truth. Instead, these made people to be carried away by the capitalist-imperialist design. It took hardly a few years for the haze to thin out. At this hour of the thirtieth anniversary of the dark episode, it remains for every right-thinking person to delve into the truths, with a view to cleaning up the air. It is urgent, as right now the capitalist-imperialist world and particularly the imperialist-capitalist powers of Europe, rather the European Union, on face of the severe economic crisis of their system they face today, have intensified afresh their anti-communist campaign. As reports go, last September, the EU Parliament adopted an utterly despicable resolution, full of anti-communist slanders, that distorts history. It thus demands a dispassionate look back into the history.

The background

What was this Berlin Wall? Who built it and why? On what background? These are the few cardinal questions. And to unveil the truth, first a brief note on the background.

At the end of the Second World War with the Soviet Union, the

United States and Great Britain and later France joining heads together, the Yalta (/Crimea) Conference (February 1945) and Potsdam Conference (July-August 1945) laid down the principles to determine the future of Germany. That was a time, when the US-UK allies could not but greet Comrade Joseph Stalin, the great leader of the proletariat and architect of building up and strengthening socialism in the erstwhile USSR, i.e., the Soviet Russia, as the saviour of humanity from the cruel clutches of Nazism. It was great Stalin who had led the Soviet Red Army and the people of Soviet Russia to drive the Nazis out of Russia and different countries of east Europe and made them finally accept defeat in Berlin. Fall of Berlin at the hands of the Soviet Red Army was the victory over Nazism-fascism not only for the world, but also for the German people too.

The aforesaid conferences were aimed at creating the conditions to develop Germany into a single, demilitarized, de-nazified, democratic state. Till the agreed goal was achieved, the larger and industrially developed western part of the country was placed under the administration of the alliance between U.S- Britain and eventually France, the imperialist powers, and the agriculture-based eastern part which had experienced and embraced liberation from Nazi-domination came under the Soviet socialist administration. Similarly, the city of Berlin was also divided into West Berlin and East Berlin respectively. West was under the imperialist control whereas East Berlin remained under the control of socialist Soviet Union. Geographically, entire Berlin was situated in the Soviet Russia-controlled eastern part of the country. So the Soviet authority left a corridor in West Berlin under the supervision of the Soviet Army for communication and easy access between the eastern and western parts.

However, right from the word go, the ever-deceitful imperialists, represented here by the alliance of the US-UK-France started playing their heinous games. They pumped up a combination of the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats in Western Germany. In May, September 1949, the regions under the imperialist control were combined into the capitalist Federal

Republic of Germany (FRG) with Bonn as the capital and by no means excluded Nazi-era war-monger politicians. placed in power. Bifurcation of Germany as against the agreed provision of unified Germany was, thus, initiated by the imperialists. In October 1949, Soviet Russia handed over the charge of eastern part of the country as also of East Berlin, to the united democratic front led by the German Communist Party which had helped the Red Army to defeat the Nazis. The front established the German Democratic Republic (GDR/DDR) as an anti-capitalist anti-fascist people's democratic state with its capital in East Berlin. The Soviet forces were withdrawn. West Germany, however, became a member of the US-imperialist-led military alliance NATO against the Soviet Union with modern war machineries and systems installed there by the US imperialists. Before long West Germany itself was armed to the teeth demonstrating its military force. And last, but not the least, West Berlin, placed right in the heart of eastern Germany, was fuelled and pampered with liberal aids from the US to grow into a pompous showcase of capitalism and an advance outpost of an intensive and systematic vilification campaign against socialism. The goal of the campaign was to undermine East Germany, its ongoing achievements and ultimately the Soviet Union. All these went against the post-war agreements. Compelled by this development endangering the security of the GDR, the latter had to come into the Warsaw Pact with Soviet Union and other socialist East European countries.

There was another factor operating from behind. To bring about counter-revolutionary upsurge in favour of the fascist ideology of Nazism, the Hitlerite Nazi leadership had whipped up national jingoist slogan of German supremacy. Besides, to rope in the entire country behind them, the Nazis had also fanned up the cry of unified Germany. In the post-war times with Germany vanquished and divided, it was quite natural that the Germans would fall victim to a sense of humiliation and frustration. The West German rulers clearly aided and abetted by the imperialist and their well-lubricated media, once again got into the dangerous game of fanning up these vicious concepts of German

supremacy and unified Germany. With all cunningness, they marked the Soviet Russia and socialism as the stumbling block for the Germans to achieve these.

Parallel to this, it cannot be ignored that after the demise of the great leader Stalin in 1953, the rise of modern revisionism in Soviet Union and its spread in other socialist countries were ideologically and culturally eating into the very vitals of socialism in these countries. The planned socialist state-controlled economy was bringing about economic reconstruction in the once Nazi-controlled and then war-ravaged east European countries-turned people's democratic and later socialist states. But the desired and necessary cultural revolution to bring about ideological-cultural changes to a standard commensurate with the socialist economy and society, was not carried out by the revisionist leaderships in these countries. In the post-war relatively peaceful society, latent bourgeois influences flared up in the cultural-ideological field. These found expression in bourgeois individualism, individual aspiration for so-called prosperity placed over collective interest. The compromising revisionist leadership instead of inculcating among the people the correct understanding of freedom which lies in recognition of social necessity and finds concrete expression in more and more identification with the socialist state and socialist programmes created conditions in which one is prompted to be swayed by the concept of ultra-freedom and place the question of individual freedom and fulfilment of individual aspirations estranged from social necessity and something exclusively individual-oriented. So, instead of grasping the truth that individual's interest is intimately interwoven with the social necessity at any given moment of history and social development, people were made to harbour wronged illusionary notion of freedom. The dazzle of imperialist propaganda, be it about prosperity in the West or on the questions of individual freedom, could thus allure common people, more so the younger generations, particularly when their leadership had turned bureaucratic, all of which was giving way to strong resentment in people about their "freedom being curbed in

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Berlin Wall

If people wanted free movement to the west, capital wanted free movement to the east

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socialism.”.

The Berlin Wall : erection to demolition

On such a background, people of East Germany were drawn and provoked to migrate to the Western part. At the same time, taking advantage of the open border, capitalist West German regime carried on continuous subversive activities to undermine and sabotage the socialist construction in the GDR. When these were taking a menacing shape, the East Germany government, at the beckoning of the revisionist Khrushchev leadership slipped into another bureaucratic move to close its border for good. In just two weeks in August 1961, the East German army, police force and construction workers completed a makeshift barbed wire and concrete block wall—the Berlin Wall—that divided one side of the city from the other. Apparently meant to act as a measure of defence against the offensive policy of West Germany and an effort to ensure the security of the socialist German Democratic Republic, this made the situation worse. Exodus might have been stemmed, even economic growth of the GDR could have been boosted in absence of subversion. But it caused resentment among people who even had their families divided. This, as a palatable gift to exploit, it only helped to fuel the imperialist propaganda against socialism calling the latter as a “totalitarian regime of command economy”. By the end of the 1980s, the situation in the GDR was explosive. By then the East German people had become openly rebellious against their bureaucratic revisionist leadership and the Berlin Wall. A wave of mass demonstrations swept through East German cities. To avert the crisis, the government was changed. At this critical hour, Gorbachev, the architect of capitalist counter-revolution in Soviet Russia, visited East Germany on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic. Reportedly he pressed upon hastening up pro-capitalist reforms and bring the East German leadership to his line of counter-revolution. On 9 November 1989, the East German government announced that all GDR citizens could visit West Germany and West Berlin. On the very same date, demolition of the wall began. It was completed in a few weeks. A celebratory atmosphere was created.

A mood of euphoria prevailed harping on reunification of Germany. But elation and expectation in the population of the GDR in November of 1989, was soon eclipsed by the gloom and despair of a shattered dream.

Changes leading upto demolition of the wall and after

New questions confronted people of Germany, both East and West, as well as people of the world. What went wrong? Were not the people duped and deceived? To reach the answers it is better to look for what changes took place from before to after the demolition of the wall.

Within a short time after the World War II, planned economies under state control of socialism in the USSR and Eastern Europe achieved astonishing results in the fields of industry, science, health and education. Of all the regimes of Eastern Europe, the German Democratic Republic was one of the most industrially and technologically advanced. The standard of life, although not apparently as high as in West Germany, was good. There was full employment and everyone had access to cheap housing, transport, free medicine and education of a high standard. A brief comparison is presented here based on official data of the two governments. In eight years from 1950, ‘total production’ of industrial goods increased by 141% and 110% respectively in GDR and FRG. A break-up shows that ‘increase in production’ in basic industries was 125% and 103%, in metal industries 192% and 164%, in food and cereals 163% and 102%, in chemical industries 146% and 151% etc., in all cases the first figures are of East Germany and the second of West Germany.

With demolition of the wall and much-clamoured unification, German people of the former GDR discovered that they started losing their guaranteed jobs, universal childcare which especially harmed women, two-thirds of their public libraries, their low-rent apartments and almost-free public transportation.

From a society with zero unemployment, it found only 30 per cent of the workforce in employment one year. Allured by the propaganda and compelled by the reality, a large section of population of the former GDR (East Germany) moved to the West. At least 4 million job positions

were lost by 1992. In the five years following the fall of the Berlin Wall, up to 80% of working East Germans lost their jobs. Women who had achieved a high degree of equality in the GDR, as in other erstwhile socialist countries of East Europe, suffered most. Pensioners had their savings halved and companies were unable to meet their wage obligations and at the same time unable to sell their goods.

In the GDR, factories were called “People’s Own Factory,” the property of the collective, of the people. Those were handed over to a newly created government agency, the “Treuhand”, whose sole objective was rapid privatisation. Halle in Saxony-Anhalt, once an important centre for the chemical industry with more than 315,000 people, lost nearly a fifth of its citizens; employment was reduced by about 90%. Gera once had large textiles and defence industries, and some uranium mining. They were gone, and much the same happened in most other state-owned industries since 1989.

Pertinent questions

The imperialist claim of the ‘victory of democracy, victory of the free world,’ etc., boiled down to what was the beginning of an unprecedented “loot” of GDR’s public property: privatization of industries, even hospitals, gruelling unemployment, extended corruption and so on. *Reuters* reported an East German saying “It took just a few weeks to realize what the free market economy was all about. It’s rampant materialism and exploitation. Human beings get lost. We didn’t have the material comforts but communism still had a lot going for it”. Another old retired blacksmith responded with “I thought communism was shit but capitalism is even worse. The free market is brutal.” “The distribution of wealth is unfair” was how a lady clerk opined. Once imperialist Germany had conquered Namibia in the 19th century, but the socialist GDR gave medical treatment to the wounded liberation fighters of SWAPO in Africa. Capitalism after counter-revolution in GDR made use of the socialist infrastructure to build up their profit-making machine. From its fear-complex of revolution, it began to sweep away all marks of socialism-communism. Most of the visual landmarks of the socialist era were removed. In East Berlin, Lenin Allee was renamed Landsberger

Allee, Karl Marx Platz became Hackischer Markt. The federal government initially proclaimed that the costs of unification could be borne by borrowing and without increases in taxation. Within a few years, Helmut Kohl government imposed additional taxation. Common people of East Germany were disillusioned by the economic results of the unification. They were duped and deceived. They did not dream of mass unemployment, closure of factories, destruction of the industrial base they had built, the rise in prices, snatching away the ever-unknown social benefits that socialism had given them, demoralization and degeneration of their youth. They started realizing the deceit behind the so called slogan of “individual freedom and fulfilment of individual aspirations being curbed in socialism”. Those from the West grew increasingly resentful of the cost of paying for it. They demolished the Berlin Wall. Now in Munich, they have been assigned the job of erecting a higher wall to protect themselves from the influx of refugees. Reunification came down to annexation, an imperialist country seizing a colony, plundering its infrastructure and using its human resources as cheap labour. In both parts, East and West, those who were benefited were certainly the monopoly groups, the capitalists and definitely not the working class of the country.

It has now been made amply clear that the goal was never democracy and freedom. The target was to demolish socialism, socialist reconstruction and communism. *Die Zeit*, the leading newspaper summarised the process as : “*the masses wanted free movement to the West, capital wanted free movement to the East*”.

Three decades have been enough to prove this design of the imperialists led by the US-imperialists. US imperialism wanted the German imperialism to regain strength, to be used against the Soviet Russia. Now with the crisis of the capitalist-imperialist world system reaching its peak, they are at each other’s neck for survival. The US and the European imperialists are vying with each other to gain or retain markets for their profit hunt. Toiling people of Germany as well of anywhere in the world, had nothing to rejoice at the erection and demolition of the Berlin Wall.

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Maharashtra Government Formation

Shameless exhibition of greed for power

The mid-night drama of installing a BJP-led government in Maharashtra and the subsequent developments including observations and directions of the Supreme Court on the issue have brought to the fore certain aspects signifying the extent of degeneration bourgeois parliamentary democracy has undergone. All discerning countrymen are aware that in the last assembly election in Maharashtra, two combinations were in the fray. One was the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance which had been ruling the country over the past 10 years and the other was the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) combine seeking to regain power. But then based on a demand of sharing of chief ministership on 50:50 basis, the Shiv Sena broke away from the ruling combination and instead began hectic parleys to form a government led by it with the support of the NCP and the Congress, hitherto arch rivals in bourgeois power politics. But in absence of any party having due numbers to stake claim singly for government formation even after 15 days of publication of election results, President's rule was imposed on the state.

The midnight coup

But when chances of installation of a Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance government had brightened, Devendra Fadnavis the erstwhile BJP chief minister accompanied by, to the shocked disbelief of many, Ajit Pawar, an NCP leader, reached the Maharashtra governor, in the wee hours of 23 November, after waking him up from sleep at midnight and staked claim for forming government. The need for cabinet approval to revoke President's rule was bypassed by invoking a special provision of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, which gives the prime minister special power to do so. The BJP prime minister exercised the power immediately and then the President too brooked no delay in signing the proclamation for revocation and sending it back to the governor. Consequently, President's rule was revoked at 5:47 am and the swearing in began at 7:50 am. Not only was Devendra Fadnavis back as chief minister, but NCP leader Ajit Pawar stunned nearly everyone by joining the BJP leader as his deputy. At 8:40 am, the prime minister had tweeted his congratulations to Fadnavis. All this was done overnight to enable the swearing-in to be held at that earliest possible hour. But, then why was this orchestrated backstage drama?

30 years of demolition of the Berlin Wall

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Observance of 30 years of its fall only demands to tear apart the veil of deception, profit-hunger, inhuman cruelty and all these forming the base of rabid anti-communism that the imperialists have been and are frantically trying to develop and practise. Perhaps there is a rethinking: What has been demolished? The Berlin Wall or the edifice of socialism that guaranteed true prosperity and development of German people?

It was evident that the BJP leaders were in a tearing hurry to form a backdoor ministry with the governor in tow so as to stall the new anti-BJP alliance from holding the reins. Seeking to woo Ajit Pawar into the BJP camp at any cost was evident when, in the immediate aftermath of the swearing in ceremony, a long pending mega corruption charge against him was withdrawn. But then the role of the Governor came in for sharp criticism from almost all quarters, the jurists, constitution experts, media columnists and of course the democratic-minded right-thinking people. They asked how could the Governor 'believe' in the claimed majority of the Fadnavis-Ajit duo simply based on an uncaptioned list containing signatures of claimed "loyal" MLAs? Expectedly, the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress moved the Supreme Court submitting that "the Hon'ble Governor has acted in a partisan manner and has made a mockery of the high office of the Governor." The Supreme Court responded positively to their petition and on 26 November ordered the midnight government to prove its majority on the floor of the House by 5pm of 27 November. Sensing inability to cobble up requisite numbers within the stipulated period, Fadnavis resigned within 80 hours of taking oath. The Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combination who had sequestered their MLAs to luxury hotels across Mumbai to protect them from any attempts at poaching, paraded 162 of them (more than the magic number what was needed to form a government) in front of the media at a plush hotel in Mumbai. Ajit Pawar nimbly returned to the NCP fold. Finally, a government of the combination headed by the Shiv Sena supreme assumed office. For the time being, the BJP failed to engineer defection in the newly formed combination seemingly with lure of pelf and power, unlike what they could do successfully in Manipur, Sikkim, Goa and Karnataka.

Power matters—nothing else

First of all, notwithstanding all manipulations in influencing election verdict, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance received a clear mandate. But then dishonouring the mandate, the Shiv Sena who shares the arch communal Hindutva ideology with the BJP and hitherto claimed to be an inalienable constituent of the Hindu communal Sangh Parivar, deserted its big brother ally just for grabbing the chair of chief minister. And for that, it did not hesitate to knock at the door of NCP-Congress camp whom it till the other day scorned as pseudo-secular. On the other hand, the NCP-Congress craving for a return to the throne did not hesitate to join hands with its 'communal foe' under the garb of keeping the BJP out of power. Even the CPI (M), which has a lone MLA, said that to ensure preventing the BJP from returning to power, it has decided not to oppose formation of a Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress.

Because, it is, after all, power that they all are interested in. All the hues of ideology, patriotism, nationalism, working for people's development and so forth are sheer bunkums. Anytime, entering into any opportunistic tie-up with anybody is not forbidden in rotten bourgeois parliamentary democracy today.

Congress's tactics repeated in using the post of Governor

Secondly, what is seen of late that the chair of Governor is squarely abused to install a government that the ruling quarters want. While the legislators and even the President are elected, Governors are nominated and deemed to be the constitutional head of the state government in the federal structure of the Indian parliamentary system. But as any student of political science knows, the political system of a country is a superstructure of its economic base. The modern parliament and the bourgeois parliamentary system were introduced by the rising bourgeoisie during their fight against feudalism and monarchy to establish their own rule—albeit under the garb of people's rule—through the bourgeois democratic revolution. The bourgeoisie was then a progressive force for society to advance. So they pleaded for equality-liberty and fraternity, stood for individual freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of people—of course in the bourgeois sense—to choose their own government. They promoted a *laissez faire* economy with free competition between individual capitalists.

But with emergence of monopoly, aberrations of capitalist system in which exploitation of man by man took a new and, in fact, more ruthless form, began to surface and extended to bourgeois democracy as well. As the days rolled by, capitalism beset with acute market crisis endemic of the system became decadent. In its trail bourgeois democracy, too, was plunged into degeneration. As a part of this degeneration, the rolling process of more centralization of political power has brought in its trail gradual departure from the basic precepts of bourgeois parliamentarianism. A careful analysis of world history will bear eloquent testimony to this. Today, capitalism, following inexorable course of history, has turned moribund and decadent. So bourgeois parliamentary system has been stripped of all its democratic principles and turned into a farce. Only a facade of that is maintained to dupe people with parliamentary illusion. In keeping with that, the much-trumpeted federal structure of Indian parliamentary system is also being systematically subverted. Liberal democratic approach and practices are more and more dispensed with. It is the capitalist state which decides, which political party or which combination of parties will be the best suited to serve the interest of the ruling bourgeois class at a given particular time of political scenario and then uses every possible means or machineries to get it anointed in power.

In this perspective only, the role of the governor is to be understood. Most of the governors are today not appointees on merit but are picked up based on their loyalty to the ruling party. A person's political stripes seldom vanish. So, these 'selected' governors turn out to be virtual stooges of the party in power. Earlier, the Congress, as the most trusted representative of the ruling monopolists, was the ruling party at the Centre. Now it is the BJP. Earlier the governors had never questioned the instructions of the

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Maharashtra Government Formation

Only a facade of parliamentary democracy is maintained to dupe people with parliamentary illusion

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Congress-led central government seeking recommendations for dismissal of state governments. Now, the governors are being used as instruments, more nakedly, for either dismissing a non-BJP government at the earliest opportunity or paving the way for putting a BJP government in power, no matter if that warrants flagrant violation of even the basics of democratic codes, norms and practices.

Recap of the governor-induced regime changes in Congress rule

Since independence, Article 356 has been invoked 130 times to dislodge elected governments. It was a Congress government headed by Jawaharlal Nehru which had sown the "murder of democracy" seed by guillotining Namboodiripad government Kerala in 1959. B Ramakrishna Rao, the then Kerala Governor, acted as per directive of Nehru government. That seed has now grown into a thick weed. On 15 August 1984, the Indira Gandhi government used Governor Ram Lal to dismiss the TDP government in Andhra Pradesh headed by NT Rama Rao. Rama Rao was then abroad for heart surgery. On his return, Rao herded his MLAs and sent them to Bangalore in luxury buses, a practice now adopted by many bourgeois political parties to insulate them from poaching. Then he went to the people's court riding his 'Chaitanya Ratham'. Public outcry forced the Centre to reinstate NTR government. The Janata Party government headed by SR Bommai was dismissed by Rajiv Gandhi on 21 April 1989, through Governor Pendekanti Venkatasubbaiah, who rejected Bommai's written request for trial of strength in the assembly. In 2005, Jharkhand governor Syed Sibtey Razi, on the instructions of the then Congress-led central government, installed JMM leader Shibu Soren as the chief minister despite the BJP-led NDA claiming support of 41 MLAs in

the 81-member House. On being moved by the NDA, the Supreme Court followed the Bommai judgment and ordered a floor test. Soren lost. NDA's Arjun Munda became chief minister.

In the same year of 2005, the assembly elections conducted in Bihar in February also threw up a fractured mandate with no party reaching the magic majority figure. The NDA had staked the claim of forming the government after asserting that it had the support of 115 MLAs by mid-April in the 243-seat assembly. Around a month and a half after that, Buta Singh, a Congressman and then governor of Bihar, wrote to the then Congress-led central government alleging that the legislators from the Ram Vilas Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) were being wooed by the NDA. Hence he recommended dissolution of the assembly on the pretext of preventing horse-trading. The Congress-led union cabinet met at midnight and accepted the Bihar Governor's report, which was then faxed to the then President's camp office in Moscow. President APJ Abdul Kalam approved the recommendation in two hours and the assembly was dissolved. Less than a year later, when the matter had reached Supreme Court, the governor came in for a rare reprimand. In some stern remarks, the then Chief Justice of India observed: "All canons of propriety were thrown to the wind Undue haste made by the governor smacks of mala fide intent... Clearly the governor has misled the Council of Ministers."

The acts of Governor Koshyari and the BJP-led central government in Maharashtra mirror the dark deeds of the previous Congress governments.

Ruling in S R Bommai vs. Union of India case

Pertinent in this regard is the verdict of the S R Bommai vs Union of India case pronounced in 1994. When his government was dismissed on 21

April 1989 under Article 356 of the Constitution and President's Rule was imposed, S R Bommai first moved the Karnataka High Court who dismissed his writ petition. Then he went to the Supreme Court. On 11 March 1994, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gave a significant ruling, which held that the power of the President to dismiss a State government is not absolute. The dissolution of legislative assembly should be resorted to only where it is found necessary for achieving the purposes of the Proclamation and with approval of both the houses of parliament. In a way, the verdict put an end to the arbitrary dismissal of State governments under Article 356 by spelling out restrictions. But as described above, the essence of this ruling, both in intent and purpose, has been trampled underfoot many a times. This shows how the basic postulates of bourgeois democracy like honouring the verdict of the Supreme Court in regard to issues of correct application of the stipulations of the Constitution, considered so sacred and inviolable by the entire bourgeois circle the bourgeois political parties included, are merrily disobeyed.

Truth that is unveiled

What do all these prove? It proves that both the BJP and the Congress, two trusted political managers of the ruling monopolists, as well as the various other aspirant bourgeois outfits shifting camps just for remaining afloat in the corridors of power, sail in the same boat. So long we heard that power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Now it is found that even scramble for power is also riding on all kinds of unscrupulous, corrupt, immoral, despotic and even crooked means. Crave for absolute power has been stimulating grandiose delusions of immunity in the bourgeois politicians. This is only baring the decayed skeleton of bourgeois parliamentary democracy. This is how, as we had said earlier on a number of occasions, bitter truth is concealed beneath glib eloquence of parliamentary democracy by the quarters of reaction.

It is a fact that a large section of people ruthlessly oppressed and criminally cheated under capitalism-imperialism, not only in our country but in other countries, get frustrated with the sordid state of affairs marking the bourgeois parliamentary system today. This is so because they are swayed by an uncritical approach or failure to get into the depth of the problem and identify the root of the evils tumbling out every day with increasing virulence. What the suffering and despondent countrymen need to realize with conviction is that any political force or party that survives on this bourgeois parliamentary politics to serve the monopolists and maintain this capitalist system cannot behave otherwise. It is only exercise of conscious vigilance on the part of the countrymen and assertion of people's power through intensification of class and mass struggles under correct revolutionary leadership that can to some extent restrain the ruling monopolists and their servitors from indulging in such misdeeds. Till the time capitalism is not overthrown by revolution, this task falls to all of us.

France is on the boil again

After the inspiring Yellow-Vest movement which compelled the French government to make concessions over fuel prices and government subsidies, France is again on the boil. Millions of workers from Railways, Metro Trains, Teachers, Hospitals, Transports, and even students have joined the biggest strike of public sector employees that paralyzed Paris and other main cities of France on 5 December last. The strike was against the new Universal Points based Pension Scheme slated to be introduced by the President Emmanuel Macron's Government. Macron government is slated to replace 42 different retirement schemes with one state-managed programme in which the workers will be accumulating the points in course of their service and based on those points encashment would be given. This point-based system is very risky as there would be no certainty regarding the amount of pension. A similar attempt to change existing pension plan was made in 1995 by the French Government. But it had to be abandoned in view of massive prolonged protest from the

workers.

The support to the present agitation of the workers is huge. About 1.5 million people took to the streets in different parts of the country when the police used tear gas to disperse them. Schools, colleges, airports, all were closed leading to a virtual shut down. The scale of protest suggests that there is a deep social discontent behind the protests. Philippe Martinez, Secretary General of the General Confederation of Labour, one of the unions opposed to the pension plans, told reporters at the start of the Paris demonstration: "There is no reason to abandon a system that the whole world is envious of." While extending full support to the struggling French workers from our side based on proletarian internationalism, we call upon them to unite and fight under correct revolutionary leadership to transform such massive protest agitations into protracted organized militant movements along right track to ensure materialization of the slogan 'Down with Capitalism'. [Based on : *BBC News* and *New York Times*]

9th All India Conference of AIDS0 in Hyderabad with pledge to intensify students' movement against anti-education policies

9th All India Students' Conference of AIDS0 against Fee Hike, Privatization, Commercialization, Communalization and Centralization of education was held at Hyderabad on 26-29 November 2019. This conference was a unique one in many aspects. To organize such a national conference in the city like Hyderabad was a big challenge before us. But the impossible became possible. This was achieved due to the tireless work of thousands of AIDS0 activists and leaders imbued with the noblest ideology of this era i.e. Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. This ideology is our strength and source of inspiration. Toiling people need this ideology. For them our organization is the only alternative, only hope in utter darkness of frustration and deprivation. So, from Uttarakhand to Tamil Nadu, even the small state like Puducherry, the peoples' response was overwhelming. They came forward, contributed generously and provided all type of support that we sought from them. Students, teachers, education community, even common people listened to our deliberations attentively, read our printed materials seriously and extended their support to the just demands of the conference. Hundreds of eminent personalities of the country appealed to the students in particular and the people in general to make this conference a grand success.

On the other hand, the TRS-led Telangana state government and administration betrayed an autocratic and arrogant attitude and tried in many ways to act as a spoilsport. To get permission for various works related to the conference including campaigning proved extremely difficult. Even permission for campaigning with auto-rickshaws was denied. Still the message of the programme reached all. The whole city's main thoroughfare and important spots dazzled with attractive and artistic wall writings. AIDS0 volunteers worked day and night to do the job. In the wee hours of 25 November, the authorities cancelled permission for holding a rally on 26 November on the plea of disruption of law and order and peoples' inconvenience. State administration was reported to have issued whip to all educational institutions to see that their students did not join the conference. But defying all such whips, hundreds of students from Hyderabad city itself participated in the programme.

The open session held on 26 November 2019 at Exhibition Ground was dedicated to Shri Kandukuri Veeresalingam, an eminent social reformer. Even being denied permission, a short but well decorated and dignified procession was organized from Exhibition Ground to Nampally Railway Station before commencement of the open session. A photo and quotation exhibition was inaugurated after the procession. The open session was presided over by Comrade Kamal Sain, President, AIDS0 while Prof. Ravi Kumar Verma, former Advocate General of Karnataka and Mr. Kanan Gopinathan, Former IAS Officer, who resigned from service in protest against the policies of the BJP government graced the occasion. Distinguished guests and speakers including Justice B Chandrakumar, Former Judge, High Court of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh; Prof. P.L. Visweshwar Rao, Former Dean, Osmania University, Comrades K Sridhar, member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) and Ashok Mishra, General Secretary, AIDS0 addressed the gathering. All the speakers criticized the anti-education policies of the central government and stressed on the need for developing protest agitations. Mr Kanan Gopinathan observing this tweeted that 'if there is an undeclared emergency, let there be an undeclared resistance.' Comrades Sridhar and Ashok Misra gave a call for developing countrywide students' movement against the anti-education policies.

In the afternoon, a discussion session on 'Present Situation and Prospects of Left Students' Movement in India' was organized. Representatives of AISA and AISF stressed on strengthening left-democratic students' movement while AISB sent a message wishing success to the conference. Comrade Rashed-ul-Islam of Samajtantrik Students' Front of Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion.

On 27 November, a Seminar against Draft NEP - 2019 was conducted by Comrade V. N. Rajashekhar, the Vice-President of AIDS0. In the seminar, Prof. Dhruvajyoti Mukhopadhyay, ret. Prof, Calcutta University; Prof. R. Manivannan, Madras University; Prof. Ram Punyani, ret. Prof, Bombay-IIT and Dr. Sattar Khan, social activist, renowned physician and chairman, NAF-NMC (National Action Forum against National Medical Commission) and Mr Zaheeruddin Ali Khan, managing

editor, SIASAT Urdu daily discussed on the educational problems of our country. Justice J Chelameswar, Former Judge of Supreme Court of India; Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-chancellor, NALSAR Law University; Prof. S Irfan Habib, Former Professor, Delhi University; Prof. K.M Srimali, Former professor of History, Delhi University; Prof. J V Narlikar, Emeritus Professor, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics; Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University; Prof. Alladi Sitaram, Emeritus Prof., Division of Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics, Indian Statistical Institute and Prof. G N Devy, Chairman, Peoples Linguistic Survey of India had sent their video messages/written messages wishing all success to the conference. Just after the conference, Justice Chandra Kumar invited the AIDS0 leaders for a round table meeting.

Delegate session was held from 27 November afternoon to 29 November forenoon. First session was dedicated to Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, leading light of Indian Renaissance and a pioneer of secular, scientific and democratic education. The second session on 28 November started with the

garlanding of the portraits of Jyotibharao Phule, another eminent social reformer and Frederick Engels, the great leader of the proletariat. Thirteen resolutions on various educational and social problems were moved in this session. Hundreds of delegates spoke and moved valuable amendments to the main resolution placed in first session. Incorporating all these suggestions, all the resolutions were passed unanimously. The Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, Students Wing of the Ceylon Communist Unity Centre, All Nepal National Independent Students' Union, Communist Youth Organization of MLKP/KGÖ, Turkey/Kurdistan and Democratic Students' Federation of Pakistan also sent their messages to the conference.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), addressed the delegates on the concluding session as the chief guest. Finally, a 46-member strong All India Executive Committee and 142-membered All India Council of AIDS0 were elected with Comrades V. N. Rajashekhar as the President and Sourav Ghosh as the General Secretary to lead the revolutionary students' movement in the country.



AIDS0 in the "March to Parliament" by various students organizations and members of civil society in support of JNU students' movement as well as in demand for education to all.

AIMSS on Hyderabad gruesome rape and murder incident

In a statement issued on 30 November 2019, All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathana (AIMSS) expressed deep shock over the new spate of rape incidents in different parts of the country in the last few days, including the latest bestial rape and killing of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad. It criticized the irresponsible statement of the Telangana chief minister who, instead of tendering apology for the failure of the administration in protecting the life and dignity of the woman, held the victim responsible for not ringing the police. AIMSS demanded stringent punishment of the Hyderabad rape and murder culprits and called upon all the right thinking people of the country to develop conscious powerful socio-cultural movement to ensure respect and dignity of women.

Years gone by, justice for *Nirbhaya* remains elusive, situation takes uglier turn

16 December is just a day ahead. That was the day in 2012, the Delhi paramedic student Nirbhaya was gang-raped, horribly brutalized and dumped on the roadside by certain inebriated youths, including a minor. Numb with shock, despair and indignation the whole country wanted things to change once for all. Under pressure, the governments announced aloud

stricter legal provisions etc.. Seven years have passed and yet justice eludes the valiant Nirbhaya. What is even more shocking is the fact that one after another atrocities and violence against women follow, standing out in unimaginable brutality, beastliness and utter callousness. The Unnao rape victim is set on fire and within a few days she breaths her last. The Hyderabad

veterinary doctor is abducted, gang raped, murdered and her body burnt. Even the family of the victim of gang rape in which former BJP MLA Kuldip Singh Sengar was involved, was harassed, some of her family members even murdered. Another girl who has accused Swami Chinmayanand, another BJP strongman, of rape and torture, is also being harassed and threatened in many ways. BJP MLAs were found taking out rallies in support of culprits of rape and murder of an 8-year old girl in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir. Another young girl was set ablaze by five men, who were accused of raping her in last December. Before succumbing to the burn injury, she told her brother:

“Please save me, I don’t want to die.” Such ghastly incidents are on a rise in all parts of the country. In most of the cases, the victims are victimized while the accused are let off either through delayed legal proceedings or else protected by some or the other ruling political parties. Narendra Modi’s loud proclamation of *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* has turned into nothing but a hoax. Public resentment over the state of affairs has been erupting all over the country and in one voice with them, our party, the SUCI(C), is involved in movements demanding immediate and speedy trials and conviction of the culprits in every case of atrocity against women, and meting out severe punishment to the perpetrators. Given below are a few photographs of such protests against the gruesome rapes and killings including recent Hyderabad incident.

Countrywide protest against Hyderabad rape and murder incident by AIDSO, AIMSS and AIDYO



From top : Hyderabad, Agartala, Dharwad (Karnataka) and Gwalior

SUCI(C) on Hyderabad rape case

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in order to cover up their earlier negligence and to become ‘heroes’ among the people. This apprehension is further strengthened as there are many past instances of false encounters in our country.

We demand a judicial enquiry to find the truth and if the police personnel are found guilty, exemplary punishment is to be given. Further we demand that the central and state governments must take necessary and adequate arrangements for the safety of women, and immediate arrest, trial and severe punishments to the culprits responsible for rapes and murders.

We urge upon the people to develop a countrywide movement against the conspiracy of the ruling class and the ruling parties to dehumanize the people by spreading all sorts of addictions like sex, drugs and alcohol which is the root cause of such brutal rapes and murders as well as all other criminal activities.

**Make
ALL INDIA
GENERAL STRIKE
on 8 January 2020
called by
Central Trade Unions
against government's anti-working class policies
a total success**

From top EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH